

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 866

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Second Presbyterian Church of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations that, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Second Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, the members of which are celebrating the church's 200th anniversary this year with a special anniversary worship service on October 21, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Second Presbyterian Church was founded on October 24, 1818, when several people split with First Presbyterian Church in Knoxville because of theological doctrinal differences, conflict on the issue of renting pews, and the issue of slavery; and

WHEREAS, the congregation has worshipped in several buildings over the years: the first church building was located on present-day Market Street between Clinch and Union avenues, and a second building was constructed behind it and to the side in 1860; the church then relocated to a third building on West Church Avenue in 1906, and church members worshipped there until the current facility was dedicated in 1957; and

WHEREAS, in its 200 years, Second Presbyterian Church has helped start or sustain a number of groups and organizations, including Shiloh Presbyterian Church, the YMCA and YWCA, Volunteer Ministry Center, and Knox Area Rescue Ministries; and

WHEREAS, in honor of the church's bicentennial, the congregation of Second Presbyterian Church has established a special scholarship fund, administered by the East Tennessee Foundation, for students who attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), or Maryville College; these schools were chosen because a number of staff and students have attended UTK, and the church's first pastor, Isaac Anderson, was one of the founders of Maryville College in 1819; and

WHEREAS, called to lead the church in 2016, Pastor Tim Reynolds attended Second Presbyterian Church in the late 1980s while a student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, under Pastor Reynolds's leadership, Second Presbyterian Church continues to be a light in the community, and the devout members of the congregation have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Second Presbyterian Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Second Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.